



Forest Way School Newsletter

December 2021

A Word From Gail



It has been a busy, productive term and I'm pleased to report that many pupils have been able to take part in trips, visits and clubs.

There have been continued challenges dealing with COVID issues but we have been grateful to you all for how you have supported us with this.

We were visited by Ofsted last week. Thank you to everyone that responded to the questionnaire. As soon as the report is finalised we will share it with you.

We will be welcoming teacher Stacey Thomas in January, she will be taking over in Oaks 6.

The letter for clubs for next term will be sent out when we return, there will no clubs during the first week back.

We will be finishing at 3.20pm on Friday 17th December as usual but late pick up will not be available. We would really appreciate you collecting as close to 3.20pm as you can.

Merry Christmas!

Gail

Acorns 1 Settling in Well

Well done to all the children in A1 who have returned to school ready to begin a new year. They have enjoyed meeting and playing with their new friends who have also done so well during their transition sessions.

It's great to see our new friends beginning to recognise and follow the routines and structures as well as learning about their friends, things they like to do and rules of the classroom.

All children have even had their dinner in the hall instead of the classroom which is a first for all. Well done to everyone!

K Booth



Acorns 1 Exploring the Community

A1 has been exploring our local community. Our route was to walk down the path leaving Forest Way, stopping at the old house, then walking through the new gates along the path towards Castle Rock School then returning back to Forest Way. This was the first time the children of Acorns 1 have been out of the school grounds. The children looked at their photograph strip stopping at each point until they eventually reached their destination. They practised climbing steps, walking by themselves (very closely supervised)

and looking out for cars by the old school.

The children were very good, they enjoyed being out in the community and loved kicking the leaves! Several children walked all the way and back to school even though they had their buggies with them 'just in case'. We were very proud of them all.

Thank you to Ian and Neil for our extra support.

Well done A1.



Donation of iPads for Communication



The Randal Foundation and Menphys Charity has donated 10 iPads to support targeted students' communication throughout the year.

The children and their families will be trialling the use of these iPads to facilitate functional communication.

Many thanks for this amazing opportunity for our students' communication.



Instruments Needed - Can you help?

Do you have a ukulele you don't play, a drum no one uses or something that you think would like a new home to make music?

We really need some more instruments that we can explore and play together. If you have some that you think we could use then please drop them off in reception or send them in with your child.

Thank you in advance.!



Smart Watches



Students are allowed to wear a fitbit style watch which counts their steps and heartrate.

However, any form of smart watch that connects to the wifi or a mobile phone device or can take pictures is not allowed in school.

Many thanks for your co-operation on this matter.

Acorns 3 Having Fun

Acorns 3 have worked really hard this term!



Donation Made

A lovely donation of £750 has been made to Forest Way School's Christmas Fund by The Caterpillar Cares Society, which is part of Caterpillar at Desford.

So, a big thank you from everyone at school.

Oaks 3

Oaks 3 have been shelter building in Forest Schools and making circuits when learning about torches in DT!



Gardening Club



October and November were the months for planting garlic! A good rule of thumb to remember is to plant garlic on the autumn equinox and harvest it on the summer solstice. Our key stage 3 gardening club enjoyed separating bulbs from some store bought garlic, making sure that they left the paper around the bulb, before planting them in the ground.

We have also been preparing the soil ready for a new gardening season. Most of the Earth's carbon dioxide is stored in soil and so we have been using a 'no dig' approach to gardening. We laid cardboard on top of the garden beds and then placed compost and manure on top of that, to suppress the weeds and make the soil quality better, ready for spring planting!

The orange tree in the geodesic dome gave an amazing crop this year and it has been so much fun exploring them - they smell amazing!



Kinteract



This year we are continuing to build on increased home school communication and parental engagement. This term we have invested in Kinteract—a web and digital app based option for letters, texts, newsletters etc. This will be more eco-friendly and hopefully more efficient—no lost letters in bags.

In the new year we will be using this app to replace letters home, text messages to individual parents/carers or whole school and the school newsletter. Videos can be posted to share our Ma-katon signs of the week and much more. For assurance, Kinteract is a secure log in.

Please can we remind all parent/carers to activate their account via the email link which has been sent to them. If you require another link sending please email us at parentsupport@forestway.leics.sch.uk. Once your account is activated you then simply download the app. Our school website has a parental letter with further instructions if you require them.